

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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Editorial.

JULY FOURTH.

This our greatest of all National holidays has again come and gone with its usual noise and in many instances its inflaming and grandiloquent speeches.

Now that the wild tumult so often witnessed and so thoughtlessly engaged in by many good people of our country is past, perhaps we may be permitted to say a few words of sober after-thought. Loyalty to country in all righteous demands made by her is always commendable. And a man who is loyal to God in the laws of His kingdom permits no one to be more loyal to his country's welfare than he. The best citizenship is *Christian citizenship*.

But our loyalty to country must never be permitted to disturb our peace and faithfulness in relation to the King of heaven.

To engage in making a community unendurable by noise and outcry may be one way of showing our spirit of fealty, but not the only one and far from the best.

There is so much of sin in individual lives and in our public places, in officials in high places; so much that is contrary to God's will, so contrary as to be rebellion against him; so much of hypocrisy and sham and hiding under falsehoods that we need scarcely look at foes from without to be made solicitous for the nation's welfare. If our Nation fall in ruins, or is brought under distress by God's judgments it will be because of sin, the forgetting of God.

What are a few things that each Christian can do to prove his loyalty to the country of our choice? How may he be a true citizen? Well, we do not hesitate to say that in the first place, *we must learn as a people that God rules*.

His sovereignty extends over nations as well as individuals. How he deals with reprobate nations, let the ruins and waste places of past kingdoms answers. Prophecy relating to Babylon, Egypt, Palestine and others must as we see them all fulfill-

ed to their minutest detail convince every thinking person that the hand of God is in the affairs of nations. "Happy is that nation whose God is the Lord."

We must learn in the second place that God demands respect for the *Lord's Day*. No nation can long survive, either from a civil or moral standpoint, that loses the saving, sanctifying, life-giving power and the heaven-sent favor coming from the observance of a Sabbath in each cycle of seven days.

We need also to emphasize the necessity of personal purity, of living a life of "holiness unto the Lord." The moral strength of a nation can never exceed the strength of her individual citizens. To insist upon godliness, the observance of the Laws of the Kingdom of heaven and the teaching of these same things to others is to strive for the nation's cleansing from sin and the uplifting of her down-trodden sons and the perpetuation of the union by preparing the people for the Kingdom of Christ,—the one coming kingdom whose glory shall fill the whole earth. M.

VACATION FOR PASTORS.

Many of our pastors do not know what it means to have a vacation, either for themselves or congregation.

There is no man in the community so much under a constant mental strain as a faithful pastor. Nor is the demand upon any one more than upon the pastor for "things both new and old." Things not only of the Bible, but as well of history, science, social movements and all moral reforms.

That pastor who can endure such a pressure from hundreds of individual lives for any number of years in the same community without an opportunity to study and rest, is certainly hard to find. No man can live up under the strain of the present day—as pastor we mean, and preserve his health and mental vigor without an opportunity to recuperate physically and be refreshed and invigorated mentally.

Here is a word to Brethren churches. Have you a pastor whom you love? One whose efforts are appreciated and whose services you desire to retain as long as possible? Candidly, there is no one thing you can do to bring about your wishes, that is more beneficial to pastor and people than to give him a month's vacation.

Suppose you were to send him—*send him, just what we mean*,—to some summer Bible school or Chautauqua Assembly for

a month, would you gain or lose? Gain, most certainly. The new inspiration and strength with which he would then minister to you would richly repay your people. You would keep your pastor strong and fresh.

The cry that congregations would suffer by the pastor's absence is not well founded. It does not mean that the work ceases. How about the *many* absences of lay members at their own pleasure? The chief difficulty we see in the way of the pastor's vacation lies in the fact that so many of our pastors receive so small a salary that they cannot go.

Help your pastor. Is he faithful, encourage him. Is he doing his best by the grace of God, do your duty by doing your best. M.

OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Ex. Committee decided about six months ago to hold the conference at Ashland, Ohio, on condition that we could secure rates on the Railroads. By correspondence and a personal interview with railroad officials we hoped to secure favors. Those with whom we were in correspondence assured us that we could without doubt secure what we asked for. A communication received about June 20th informed us that we would have to make another application to the C. P. C. if we desired to secure any favor. The writer was told by an agent of the railroad company that little could be expected in the way of special favors.

An invitation received about June 25, from Dr. Hunter, superintendent of Winona Park, Warsaw, Ind., through Brother Yoder, to hold the conference there this year took the writer to Warsaw next day.

Here we can have the use of the beautiful grounds free of charge. We can have the advantage of reduced rates on all roads within the territory of the C. P. A., one fare for the round trip, good for fifteen days. More need not be said now. The facts have all been briefly given to the members of the Ex-Committee. Their action is awaited before final announcement can be made. We must hear from each one this week. We think that this is the best offer we can hope to secure.

By reason of reduced rates and a more central location we can have a much more successful conference.

The Brethren at Ashland were consulted before the chairman of the Ex-Committee went to Warsaw. M.